

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00
/113 W

-----072430 030101Z /62

P 022343Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5188
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2880

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, CY, TU

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON CYPRUS

REF: A) USUN 2850, B) USUN 2851

1. FOURTH SESSION OF SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON CPYRUS
OPENED MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 2 WITH BRIEF REMARKS BY
CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES. HE READ SEPTEMBER 1
REUTERS STORY QUOTING A TURKISH CYPRIOT SPOKESMAN TO THE
EFFECT THAT VAROSHA IS AN INTERNAL MATTER OF THE TFSC AND
THAT "ALTHOUGH NO FAMILIES WILL BE MOVING IN TODAY, THEY
WILL DO SO AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY REPAIR WORK IS
COMPLETED ON THE BUILDINGS THEY ARE TO OCCUPY." THIS
NEWS BULLETIN WAS FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS FROM CANADA,
VENEZUELA AND PANAMA. CANADIANS TOOK BALANCED APPROACH
WITH EMPAHSIS ON NEED FOR RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS.
VENEZUELANS CAREFULLY AVOIDED GIVING ANY INDICATION WHICH
SIDE THEY MIGHT COME DOWN ON. PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR
STRONGLY SUPPORTED GREEK CYPRITOS IN STATEMENT WHICH
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WAS NOTABLE PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE IT WAS HIS FIRST IN
RECENT MEMORY TO CONTAIN NO REFERENCE TO THE PANAMA
CANAL. IN ABSENCE OF FURTHER SPEAKERS, PRESIDENT
ADJOURNED MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY.

2. IN CAUCUS BEFORE SC MEETING, WESTERN FIVE
AMBASSADORS AGREED TO PRESENT TO GREEKS, TURKS AND

INDIANS A RATHER WEAK WORKING PAPER, IN RESSOLUTION FORM, WHICH HAD BEEN DRAWN UP BY THEIR STAFFS. TEXT WAS PRESENTED NOT AS A COUNTER-PROPOSAL TO INDIAN DRAFT (REFTEL B), BUT AS WESTERN FIVE IDEA OF ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO PARTIES AND MAJORITY OF COUNCIL. WHILE PROMISING FULLER REACTION AFTER STUDY OF TEXT, CHRISTOPHIDES SEEMED RELIEVED THAT WESTERN FIVE WERE NOW CONSIDERING RESOLUTION, AND OFFERED SEVERAL MINOR SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES. IN MIDST OF PRESENTING DRAFT TO AMBASSADOR TURKMEN, NEW INSTRUCTIONS ARRIVED FROM ANKARA TO EFFECT THAT TURKMEN WAS NOT TO ACCEPT ANY RESOLUTION, WHATEVER THE TEXT. IF THERE WERE A RESOLUTION, ANKARA WARNED, IT WOULD MEAN THE END OF THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS.

3. NONALIGNED MEMBERS MET AGAIN AFTER COUNCIL SESSION AND DECIDED (1) THAT IN LIGHT OF THE TURKISH POSITION, NONALIGNED WOULD NOT PURSUE FURTHER THEIR EFFORTS TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION, AND (2) TO ASK THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONSENSUS STATEMENT. MEANWHILE, FIVE WERE CAUCUSING SEPARATELY AND AGREED ON REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION INCORPORATING SOME SUGGESTIONS OFFERED EARLIER BY BOTH GREEKS AND TURKS (TEXT SENT SEPTTEL). INDUAL CAPACITY AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF FIVE, FRG AMBASSADOR VON WECHMAR THEN CALLED IN SEPARATELY TURKS, GREEK CONFIDENTIAL

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CYPRIOTS AND GREEKS. IN PRESENCE OF OTHER FIVE, VON WECHMAR TOLD EACH GROUP OF DECISION OF NONALIGNED, HANDED OVER REVISED WESTERN FIVE WORKING PAPER, AND ELICITED REACTIONS.

4. TURKMEN SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE CATEGORICAL AND THAT HE DIDNOT EXPECT THEM TO CHANGE. IN URGING TURKISH CONSIDERATION OF WESTERN FIVE DRAFT. VON WECHMAR EMPHASIZED THAT ANY CONSENSUS STATEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN ITS SUBSTANCE THAN PRESENT RESOLUTION. (ARGUMENT IS THAT GREEKS WOULD BE MAKING MAJOR CONCESSION IN GIVING UP RESOLUTION AND OUGHT TO BE REWARDED WITH STRONG STATEMENT. ALSO, LESS FORMAL MEDIUM OF STATEMENT TRADITIONALLY ALLOWS COUNCIL TO EXPRESS ITSELF MORE CLEARLY -- AND IN THIS CASE MORE POINTEDLY -- THAN WHEN REACHING DECISION IN RESOLUTION FORM.) TURKMEN AGREED TO REPORT BACK TO ANKARA.

5. OBVIOUSLY SHAKEN BY NONALIGNED DECISION, CHRISTOPHIDES SHARPLY CRITICIZED WESTERN FIVE DRAFT AS TOO WEAK. HE NOTED HE HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN INDIAN DRAFT. CHRISTOPHIDES REJECTED

IDEA OF A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT, ARGUING EMOTIONALLY THAT REACTION IN CYPRUS WOULD BE SUCH THAT PROSPECTS FOR INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS WOULD BE DESTROYED. HE INDICATED HE WOULD BE TALKING FURTHER WITH THE NONALIGNED.

6. COMMENT: ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS LET THE PARTIES STEW OVER THE WEEKEND AND SEE IF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS TUESDAY MORNING LEAVE AN OPENING FOR AN AGREED OUTCOME. WE THINK BEST RESULT WOULD BE TURKISH ACCEPTANCE OF WEAK DRAFT RESOLUTION WE HAVE GOTTEN THE FIVE TO SPONSOR. FIVE (PARTICULARLY FRENCH AND BRITISH) ARE NOW DRIFTING TOWARD CONCLUSION THAT GREEKS "DESERVE" A RESOLUTION, ESPECIALLY IF IT CAN CONFIDENTIAL

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BE KEPT AS INNOCOUS AS PRESENT DRAFT. WE HAD EFFECTIVELY HELD IN THE LINE FOR A CONSENSUS STATEMENT UNTIL TURKMEN UNDERCUT US YESTERDAY WITH HIS SEEMING ACCEPTANCE OF THE INEVITABILITY OF A RESOLUTION. SINCE IT NOW APPEARS WE ARE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF AGREEMENT ON THE PRESENT WEAK DRAFT RESOLUTION, MANY ON THE COUNCIL WILL REACT BADLY IF TURKEY ATTEMPTS TO "DICTATE" TO THE COUNCIL THE FORM OF ITS DECISION. IF THE TURKS STAND FIRM AGAINST A RESOLUTION, WE WILL MAKE A TRY AT A STATEMENT, BUT WE SUSPECT THE TURKS MIGHT LIKE EVEN LESS THE KIND OF STATEMENT WHICH WOULD EMERGE FROM THE COUNCIL IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN02880
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770319-0506
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197709100/aaaadggx.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a871ff38-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 2850, 77 USUN NEW YORK 2851
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1061339
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON CYPRUS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, CY, TU, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a871ff38-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009